

der our scrutiny: *1421. The Year China Discovered America*, by Gavin Menzies. While this subject seems far from Rapa Nui, Menzies manages to drag Easter Island into his scenario of past sailing feats by the Chinese. We were fortunate that our correspondent from the Netherlands, Herbert von Saher, has a keen interest in ancient maps and sailing exploits, and agreed to review the Menzies book. While *1421* is interesting, it occasionally falls into sensational speculation, similar to the books of the late Barry Fell who was convinced that he found traces of Sumerians, Phoenicians, Egyptians, etc., in the New World, and who had a huge following. Our interest in Menzies' book – and what von Saher discusses in depth – are some very early maps indicating ship voyages that took place long before those of the established discoverers such as Magellan and Columbus. One map, dating from 1507, shows the Bering Strait and parts of western Alaska. Who made these maps?

IN THIS ISSUE WE announce the winners of the EIF scholarship awards, which are presented to Rapanui students each year. This year, thanks to the generosity of the Wiegand Memorial Foundation, we were able to offer two: the Wiegand Memorial Scholarship is for four years of study. The Easter Island Foundation's Nicholas Haoa Sr. Memorial Scholarship is for one year. Your tax-deductible donations make the scholarships possible (see page 79 for more on the awards.)

THE VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Easter Island and the Pacific is coming up soon. Abstracts and reservations are coming in, so be sure to complete your registration forms and get those abstracts in while there is still time. Deadline for abstracts is 1 May, 2004. The final date for pre-payment is 1 July 2004; after that, prices go up. Turn to pages 79-80 for updates on the conference. Our website has updated news: www.islandheritage.org

FLENLEY RECEIVES AWARD! Cambridge University has awarded the rare honor of Doctor of Science to John Flenley for his pioneering world-class research on fossilized pollen grains from Easter Island. Professor Flenley, Massey University, New Zealand, is a graduate of Cambridge and the Australian National University. Congratulations, John!

COMING EVENTS: Our Fall issue of *Rapa Nui Journal*, Vol. 18 (2), will present a full report on the Belgian Archaeological Mission to Easter Island, by Nicolas Cauwe and Dirk Huyge, Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels. Their report will cover recent excavations at Ahu o Rongo (Hanga Roa) and Ahu o Tuki (Ko te Aheru, south coast). At Ahu o Rongo, Cauwe and Huyge uncovered another *ahu* built partly over an earlier one. This find belongs to the 'classical' period of *ahu* construction and is tentatively dated to AD 15th to 16th centuries. It originally bore several statues in Rano Raraku tuff. The second site, Ahu o Tuki, was discovered by chance by Catherine and Michel Orliac (CNRS, France); it is located on the very edge of a 30-meter-high cliff, and is threatened by gully erosion. Cauwe and Huyge's excavations revealed a small, previously unknown *ahu*, probably dating from the late 13th or 14th century. Don't miss this important report!

OBITUARIES

WE ARE SAD TO REPORT THAT EMILY ROSS MULLOY passed away on 12 November 2003, on the island of Molokai. Over the years, and from the very beginnings of the *Rapa Nui Journal*, Emily contributed papers to RNJ, many of them relating her memories of Rapa Nui from the time when she was on the island with her husband, William Mulloy. Emily's enthusiasm, warm personal manner, and great sense of humor are evident in her writing.



Bill and Emily Mulloy on Easter Island in 1972
(photo courtesy of Grant McCall).

Emily was involved with the Easter Island Foundation from its inception, helping to create the William Mulloy Library on Easter Island. Emily also contributed a selected bibliography and a chronology for her late husband, Bill (Vol. 2:1, 1988).

Emily's ashes will be taken to Rapa Nui in August 2004 to be buried at Tahai, at Bill's memorial. A memorial fund to honor Emily, associated with the Mulloy Library on Rapa Nui, is planned. Contact brigid@aloha.net for information.

ROBERT LANGDON, author of *The Lost Caravel* (1975), *The Lost Caravel Re-explored* (1988), and (with Darrel Tryon) *The Language of Easter Island: Its Development and Eastern Polynesian Relationships* (1983), has died in Australia. Langdon, a promoter of diffusionism, participated in some vigorous exchanges in *Rapa Nui Journal* with scholars Paul Bahn and John Flenley (Vol. 8(1):11-12, 1994; Vol. 9(1):19-20 1995), and Erika Hagelberg (Vol. 9(1):16-19, 1995). He also contributed papers to *RNJ*: Vol. 9(1):81-82 (1995); Vol. 9 (4):109-117 (1995); and Vol. 11(1):21-23 (1997).